New Beaked whale !!!

cheinselman

From: darren.naish@port.ac.uk
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2001 4:42 AM
To: cz@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [cz] ANOTHER NEW ZIPHIID!!!

Late last week I had the time to read Charles Paxton's article in the special dracontology ish of _Crypto_ - in it Charles reviews the history of discovery of _Mesoplodon peruvianus_ in order to show how complex the process of 'discovery' can be. Of further interest, he refers to further new species of ziphiid that will be described in the near future.

I have just received an email from Southampton-based biologist and coordinator of the Biscay Dolphin Research Programme Andy Willians (Andy works at the Southampton Oceanography Centre, this is where I was based prior to 1997). Andy has just returned from the Vancouver meeting of the Society for Marine Mammalogy. The big news: a new species of ziphiid was announced at the meeting! Identified from four (!!) incomplete specimens stranded on the east coast of the US (!!!!!!!!), it is named Perrin's beaked whale (_Mesoplodon perinii_). Perrin is of course a well known cetologist who specialises in delphinids and has himself named new species. I do not know if a publication on the species is out - will find out later today.

The fact that _M. perinii_ is from the eastern US is for the most astonishing fact - furthermore, in (I think) a 1984 article published in _Sea Frontiers_, Richard Ellis speculated (whimsically) that a new ziphiid might in future be discovered on the American east coast. Richard was kidding, but maybe his idea could be regarded as a prediction. Can someone fwd this to Richard please, I've lost his email address.

DARREN NAISH
PALAEOBIOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
Burnaby Building
Burnaby Road
Portsmouth UK
P01 3QL

email: darren.naish@port.ac.uk
tel (mobile): 0776 1372651
tel (office): 023 92842244
www.palaeobiology.co.uk

Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

heinselman

From: darren.naish@port.ac.uk
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2001 3:00 AM
To: cz@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [cz] PERRIN'S BEAKED WHALE

Michel wrote...

> > it is named Perrin's beaked whale (_Mesoplodon perinii_).
>
> From W. F. PERRIN, I presume; so it should be rather _Mesoplodon
> perrini_, no ?

Thanks for the email Michel, hope all is well. Very much enjoyed your article in _Crypto_. As I've mentioned before, there are several additional crypto-ziphiids and other cryptocetaceans not yet mentioned in any of the reviews. If only I had time to write this stuff up.

Anyway, regarding Perrin's beaked whale...

Well, the spelling is not a mistake on my part - I was only reporting what I'd been told. The species name is more likely to be perrini, yes, but I cannot confirm this: the species is in press for _Marine Mammal Science_ and is thus not yet published. Thus [to relevant parties] please do not publish it yet (though it's ok to mention its announcement I think) - wait for the paper.

Some of you may be familiar with Merel Dalebout et al's work on ziphiid molecular diversity - the most notable discovery of which so far is that _M. hectori_ apparently consists of two species, not one (neither of which are closely related). The current word on the genetic work is that there are as many as 26 (yes, twenty-six) additional new ziphiid species documented by molecular analysis, but as yet not completely known morphologically. I understand this was also just announced at the Vancouver conference.. I hope to find out more in the next few days.

And please save me the critiques of super-splitting via molecular analyses (e.g. there are 15 chiffchaff species, not one), I am quite familiar with these arguments:)

DARREN NAISH
PALAEOBIOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
Burnaby Building
Burnaby Road
Portsmouth UK
P01 3QL

email: darren.naish@port.ac.uk
tel (mobile): 0776 1372651
tel (office): 023 92842244
www.palaeobiology.co.uk

Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/